

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
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R 301859Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7606

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12923

USEEC

GENEVA FOR USDEL MTN

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: MTN: EC COMMON IMPORT SCHEME AND SELECTIVE
SAFEGUARDS LINK

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 11165; (B) BRUSSELS 12788;
(C) BRUSSELS 12790

1. MISSION HAS HAD CONTACT WITH ADDITIONAL MEMBER STATE
DELS (UK, DENMARK AND FRG) WITH RESPECT TO THE SIGNIFI-
CANCE OF FRENCH INTERVENTION IN JUNE 27 COUNCIL SEEKING
ACCELERATED COMPLETION OF INTERNAL EC PROPOSAL TO STAND-
ARDIZE AND SIMPLIFY EC COMMON IMPORT REGULATIONS. BRITISH
SOURCE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH COMMISSION POSITION (REF
A) THAT INTERNAL EXERCISE HAS NO INTERNATIONAL IMPLICA-
TIONS. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT TIMING AND INSISTENCE OF
FRENCH MINISTER DENIAU AND GUESSED THAT FRENCH ACTION
MOTIVATED BY CONCERN THAT EC INTERNAL INSTRUMENTS FOR
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TAKING SAFEGUARD ACTIONS WERE IN NEED OF STRAIGHTENING
OUT PRIOR TO MTN CONCLUSION. HE ADDED THAT INTERNAL EXER-
CISE HAD BEEN HELD UP FOR MONTHS ON END BY DUTCH AND THEN
GERMAN RESERVES. HE AGREED WITH COMMISSION ASSESSMENT (SEE
REF B) THAT EXERCISE COULD NOT BE COMPLETED QUICKLY AND
THAT FRENCH WERE AMONG THOSE IN ARREARS IN TERMS OF PRO-
VIDING TECHNICAL INFORMATION. SOMEWHAT TO OUR SURPRISE,

DANISH SOURCE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS VIEW. HE NOTED THAT FRG DISAGREED BUT THAT IN HIS VIEW INTERNAL EXERCISE WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT.

2. GERMAN SOURCE GAVE RADICALLY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF FRENCH MOTIVATION IN THE COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH HAD ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN HAVING ORIGINAL MTN MANDATE BECOME MORE RESTRICTIVE ON SAFEGUARDS THROUGH ADOPTION OF PRINCIPLE OF SELECTIVITY. FRG INTERPRETED DENIAU MOVE IN JUNE 27 COUNCIL AS ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN BOTH SELECTIVITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTING ON A NATIONAL, RATHER THAN MEMBER STATE, BASIS.

3. GERMAN SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN INTERNAL EXERCISE IS TO ALLOW MEMBER STATES THE POSSIBILITY TO TAKE SAFEGUARD ACTION ON LIBERALIZED PRODUCTS FOR ONLY A BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME, NOTING THAT AUTHORITY WOULD LAPSE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED IN THE COUNCIL. NONETHELESS, HE THOUGHT THAT NATIONAL ACTION, ONCE TAKEN, COULD BE DIFFICULT TO ABOLISH BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT FRG HAD AGREED TO ACCELERATE WORK PROGRAM ON COMMON IMPORT SCHEME AND THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN COREPER ON JULY 5. HE THOUGHT THAT FRG WOULD ADOPT DELAYING TACTIC AT COREPER SESSION, SAYING THAT FRG COULD NOT AGREE TO FURTHER ACTION WITHOUT MINISTERIAL REVIEW. HE
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ADDED THAT DR. GERHARD ABEL HAD TOLD HIM THAT QUESTION WOULD NEED TO GO TO ECONOMICS MINISTER LAMBSDORFF BEFORE FRG COULD MOVE FORWARD IN INTERNAL COMMUNITY EXERCISE.
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